

MIDSEASON'S FANCIES IN WOMAN'S WEAR

A Direful Prediction For the Spring Of 1900.

DEAR DOROTHY—My week spent with you was a pure delight. It fortified me for the tedious undertaking to which many of my daily hours must be consigned. To do my duty by friendly readers I stop in town for the next fortnight to winnow the wheat from the chaff of fashion that one and all may be a la mode. Would not my magnanimity be overwhelming if one could forget the jingling coin associate, which lashes me into the fashion writer's paroxysm?

Fresh from the workrooms of Berlin, Vienna, London and, last but not least, capricious Paris, stalk untanned gowns equally fit for grande dame, or the newer aristocrat, Miss America. My enthusiasm grows a trifle less assertive on paper, but within the four walls of Felice, Ruby or Philomene's establishments I uncurb my ecstasy to use adjectives of the superlative degree. Likewise I worshiped extravagance in the dimly lit empire room where I lingered lovingly over laces and satins, soft wools gorgeously embroidered, figured chintilly laces and comet ribbon rosettes the while I feasted mine eyes upon peachblow chiffons, looking good enough to eat with a spoon.

The new skirt preserves the habit back and close fitting sides, but adds beauty and grace by a much more flowing contour. For example, it will measure 42 inches about the hips and five yards around the bottom, gradually acquiring this conspicuous wealth of cloth. No disposition toward decreasing the length of trailing skirts is yet visible. For carriage, street and indoor wear, we are to be heavily harnessed or daintily shackled, as occasion demands, with sweeping breadths which require the manipulation of a master hand. This is for autumn.

Now for the real sartorial sensation! In the not far distant springtime Dolley Varden draperies and panniers will greet you in the thoroughfares. Take this kindly hint and do not exhaust your allowance until you've met a frock built on this principle. There is to be a revival of the pompadour period, the first intimation of which we get by way of Paris through an exquisite frock of pompadour silk, fringe trimmed. Blurred blossoms, pink, green and yellow on a white background, are sufficiently decorative to need no outward assistance, yet an inch wide fringe borders the deep, oblong tabs of which the flounce is composed and decorates the bodice, developing two new features—elbow sleeves over lingerie under ones and the basque skirt.

And what of the new figure? It is beyond the obese inclined. An echo of the erstwhile poster craze is heard in the persistent cry for long, flat lines. The fashionable figure has absolutely no hips. In producing this straight effect it is necessary to sacrifice the small waist, adding in size from one to two inches. On the other hand, a fine, lengthy line is obtained from shoulder to belt, and another inch and a half is gained which, from the artist's standpoint, is a distinctive triumph. Shades of Beardsley, but the possibility of this impossible era dawning so early fills my soul with anything but gladness! If you share my feelings on the subject, Dorothy, just come to town for a day or so and lend yourself to conversion by the disciples of this impressionistic craze.

The habit back petticoat is regarded as a first aid in producing the new figure. They are buyable in silk or washable materials, and, while a little more expensive, the care of the latter is required in their construction, fully warrant the expenditure. Trimmings are climbing upward on skirts, usually stopping at the placket, which the smartest dressmakers conceal under a jabot of lace or group of velvet roses. The Parisian powers will see to it that the ballrooms of autumn are filled not less with beautiful gowns than beautiful women. A trick has been turned which promises to revolutionize color schemes. It is principally utilized for party frocks or to subdue trimmings, which are thought to be too aggressive. Necessarily only diaphanous materials will submit to the treatment. The best example of the innovation was illustrated by a white crepe de chine, trimmed in butter colored chintilly lace, mounted over coral pink peau de sole. Alone, the contrasts were too striking for harmony's sake, but when pink tulle was applied to the back of the crepe and the lace overlaid a thickness each of pink and white tulle, the exquisite delicacy and warmth imparted was a delightful revelation. Jeweled straps or gold and silver chains are more favored than flower

garlands for holding up the bodice, and this extravagant notion made its debut on the frock under discussion. What a pretty idea for your mauve tulle! Of bodices I might write indefinitely without giving you many novel ideas. Individual taste is always cast for this important role. In general, sleeves are tight, collars high and bodices are to be worn outside the skirt. Tucks are as much in evidence as ever. An all over tucked silk shirt waist, with sleeves matching is considered the very best fall model. This is to be a season of buttons and braid. Remembering these two things and that one Russian blouse is essential, any votary of fashion may design something as smart as the smartest. Olga wore the daintiest bodice it has been my good fortune to promenade with in many a morn. The recipe for its making is so simple you ought to do the amateur act. A bolt

of ribbon, 12 yards of valenciennes lace and two evenings. Sew the ribbon and lace into strips from which you shape a close fitting shirt waist, and snug sleeves. Fasten together in front with fancy pins. Swathe your neck in the soft lace and plant an Alsatian bow at the neck. Isn't it easy? And such a dream! Olga's was blue taffeta ribbon with tiny black lines. Ribbon velvet in rosettes would enhance the beauty of it.

Let me send you a bolt of white or tan, and use black lace insertion. It will be just what you need for your black point d'esprit skirt. Jackets for early fall wear are of considerable importance and deserve attention. Short coats are the order of the day. They have not the trimness of the regulation Eton, but almost lose their identity beneath weighty Medici collars, which have attained enormous height, and full, floppy revers extending well over the small sleeves. According to the law of supply and demand, a novelty chain has been introduced to support the high collar. These chains are slender threads of silver or gold, with crystal buttons attached to one end, the other being sewed to the collar. They prevent the collar from falling down, yet allow sufficient space for the chin and movement of the head. One collar in gray satin had a Medici collar of face cloth, nine inches high, with round revers, surrounded by a ruffled flounce. I do not care especially for these two extremes, but may fall in line when they are more frequently seen.

Soft silks are clamoring for recognition, and by the time draperies flutter in our midst we will be prepared to give them a joyous welcome. You may indulge your fondness for pastel blues to the fullest, for, without doubt, it is to be a blue season, and pastel is the patronymic of every child of palette and brush. The pastel browns drop into second place, and I've planned a shepherd's pie skirt and bodice with a guimpe of dull blue. When it comes to the matter of hats, I am at sea, for there is nothing new

than the rough rider shape, and those tilting far forward over the eyes and crushed in at the back. Leather belts and velvet collars circle midseason hats or dress up the hand sewed straw that was bought in June.

No budget of news yet from Aunt Hetty. When it comes, you shall share its contents. She is much interested in the exposition, and I believe will be in some way identified with the women commissioners' work. I'm tempted to try for a booth privilege to sell peanuts or, as we used to call them, pindars. Is it a good scheme?

Some of the more elaborate gowns for cool days are embroidered in gold and silver thread in what is known on the continent as "secession embroidery," here and in London it is called "new art." The work is done on the garment and not, as heretofore, applied. The designs are usually

WOMEN AND THE RESTAURANT QUESTION.

AN ENGLISH paper has been agitating the question as to whether it is proper for women to patronize public restaurants. Over here such a question would be acouted for, in the large cities fully half the patrons of restaurants are women. The question

They were highly educated and of good family and, being thrown practically on their own resources, had adopted this means of earning a living rather than taking up teaching or writing or lecturing, at any one of which they could have succeeded. The restaurant soon became celebrated in the neighborhood for its marvelous bread, baked beans, coffee, tea and juicy steaks. It was patronized by the well to do business people in the vicinity who were able to pay the rather high prices which were charged. After it became known, the restaurant, although occupying small

back in what seemed a more promising field of work which was a little more congenial.

Tea rooms kept by women are plentiful in London. In Paris there is a very famous one, owned by an English lady of gentle birth whom uncertain fortunes made almost penniless. This tea room is the afternoon rendezvous for fashionable English and American women at from 4 to 5 o'clock. Its rolls and tea have received the approval of royalty. The Princess of Wales and her daughters have more than once enjoyed the hospitality of the tea room, their interest having been aroused when they learned through a mutual acquaintance the story of the opening of the place. This tea room is unique in its way, for it has all the appearance of being a private apartment. The little tables are scattered about the room in such a way that by the use of screens and palms one may secure a degree of privacy impossible in ordinary restaurants. The owner, handsomely gowned in black, plays more the part of a hostess than that of a shopkeeper, for she is known personally to nearly every one of the English guests, who do not forget that her blood is as blue as any in Great Britain.

Tea rooms have been opened in America with varying degrees of success. In New York society women have been widely advertised to open tea rooms, and for a time seemed to flourish. The difficulty with the tea rooms kept by fashionable women is that they are outside the owner's special clique ever feels at home there, and the prices are generally exorbitant.

A few months ago a clever manufacturer of flour opened a tea room on Broadway, New York, that, to the surprise of the owners of the other enterprises, who intended it altogether as an advertising venture, has had great success. In the first place it is quiet and at which refreshments are served are set in lattice work alcoves, where there is no jostling and no intrusion of strangers. In each alcove is an electric fan, handsome electric lights and a wall seat cushioned prettily, so that each space is simply a tiny apartment. A little gallery runs about the upper part of the room and tables are placed there, without any alcoves. There is a dainty dressing room, supplied with delicate soap, hot and cold water, combs and towels kept scrupulously clean, and a handsome mirror with lights on each side of it, where the shopper may rearrange her hair or powder her face. The menu is quite simple, but everything is prepared with the utmost daintiness and served in blue china. One is shown the same courtesy whether purchasing ice cream soda or pate de foie gras.

Nearly all the department stores in large cities now have restaurants where their customers may lunch, and they have done a great deal to lessen the trials of the women shoppers, but prices at many of these places are high, and their service is not what a woman who wants a light noonday meal prefers.

Probably the ideal woman's restaurant is in Philadelphia. It is a co-operative affair, and was started by some clubwomen who noticed the lack of restaurants where women employed in town during the day might obtain a wholesome meal at a reasonable price. Tickets are sold for several meals at this restaurant at a reduced price, but for 20 cents a wonderfully good lunch is served. It consists of soup, fish or meat, two or three kinds of vegetables, rolls or bread and butter, with coffee, tea or chocolate and dessert. The restaurant is in a neighborhood where rents are not cheap, but, counting service, rent, food and other expenses, is said to be ahead at the end of each week.

No woman can work well without wholesome food served in pleasant surroundings. The noon lunch hour ought to be an hour of rest as well as refreshment. With thousands of women's clubs all over the country, whose members are simply yearning for an opportunity to do something to prove their usefulness to society, it would be a good thing to take up the question of helping working women to pure and clean well cooked food at a moderate price. Young Women's Christian association restaurants are very useful in their place, but many persons look on them with disfavor as an effort to give them something for nothing, an attempt which all self respecting working women resent, and there are many,

too, who, while not of the Christian church, would nevertheless appreciate such an experiment if made in the right way. Instead of weighing at club meetings the pros and cons of questions historical, literary or ethical—good enough things in their way when there is not work to be done—why not find out the best foods for different seasons, the best foods for different branches of brain and other work, how they may be served attractively and cheaply, and how the club may put the restaurant idea for working women and women shoppers into practice in its own town?

The clubroom might be used at first and the members could prepare the food and serve it; there is no loss of dignity in that any more than in doing the same thing at a church fair. The club could teach the women of their vicinity how to eat intelligently, which is something not one woman in a thousand knows, and they would, by helping her to own a healthy, well nourished body, aid her in doing her work in the world better, and they would have taken one more step to prove the usefulness of the woman's club, for a healthy body well supplied by brain and muscle making elements is, after all, the real foundation on which all intellectual achievements depend.

ALICE DE BERDT.

WOOLING A SCHOOLTEACHER. "Yes," said a young man, as he threw himself at the feet of the pretty schoolmistress, "I love you, and would go to the world's end for you."

"You could not go to the end of the world for me, James. The world, or the earth, as it is called, is round like a ball, slightly flattened at the poles. One of the first lessons in elementary geography is devoted to the shape of the globe. You must have studied it when you were a boy."

"Of course I did, but—" "And it is no longer a theory. Circumnavigators have established the fact."

"I know, but what I meant was that I would do anything to please you. Ah, Minerva, if you knew the aching void!"

"There is no such thing as a void, James. Nature abhors a vacuum. But, admitting that there could be such a thing, how could the void you speak of be a void if there were an ache in it?"

"I meant to say that my life will be lonely without you; that you are my daily thought and my nightly dream. I would go anywhere to be with you. If you were in Australia or at the north pole, I would fly to you."

"Fly! It will be another century before men can fly. Even when the laws of gravitation are successfully overcome, there will still remain, says a late scientific authority, the difficulty of maintaining a balance."

"Well, at all events," exclaimed the youth, "I've got a pretty fair balance in the bank, and I want you to be my wife. There!"

"Well, James, since you put it in that light, I—"

Curtain.

THE ABUSE OF MEDICINE.

Both men and women are prone to medicine far too much, with drugs which they understand little or nothing about. Medicine is very necessary at times, but in overdoing a remedy it is only too easy to increase or produce the ill which we wish to prevent. Aperients and tonics are perhaps the two medicines which are most often abused in the hands of an amateur, for the indiscriminate and constant use of medicine has the worst possible effect on the complexion.

Cosmetics, emollients, lotions, etc., are all very good and useful in their way if used when necessary and with care, but women as a class are far too eager to see the result of their doctoring and have not the necessary patience to wait for the effects, for they should remember that it is useless to heap on coatings of cosmetics and lotions one after the other before the first application had time to do its work. Nature declines to be hurried and will only respond to external help when it is wisely given.

When medicine is prescribed by a doctor, the hour of administering the dose should be carefully observed, or it may not take proper effect and, if perchance a medicine has been forgotten at the time stated it is useless to administer it at any other time.

FIVE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE BODICES.

sprawly, but effective when either flowers or hieroglyphics are the motif. Do write me soon, for I need every kind of a brace to tolerate the heat and noise these August days while I strike duty's anvil to obtain sparks of clothes talk. Yours affectionately, DAISY MAY.

New York.

WOMAN'S HAIR.

Luxuriant hair is to some extent an inherited quality, and to a considerable extent it belongs to a healthy constitution. But the hair can be cultivated; it can be made healthy and preserved in its natural color until 50 with proper care and attention. The first point is a clean scalp; the second entire freedom—not a pin, or a comb, or a twist, or a braid about it, simply combed back from the forehead and hanging down behind, a ribbon confining it behind and under the ears so as to prevent it from coming forward over the cheeks. The third point is to have it as freely exposed to the air day and night as possible, because the perspiration exudes in the form of steam and carries away the extra heat and thus keeps the scalp healthy and cool and more clean than if confined with a kerchief.

on this side of the water is not so much a question of propriety as one of convenience; for even those restaurants which are nearly altogether dependent on the patronage of women make few concessions to their preferences.

The restaurant question is not one which interests alone the business or professional women forced to live in a boarding house, but the woman of leisure who goes shopping or who is sometimes compelled to spend a few days in a strange city unattended and unchaperoned, is also deeply concerned.

What women like in a restaurant are clean and quiet surroundings; no fussy waitresses or haughty, shrill voices. Jeans and Pierres insolently demanding a fee. The restaurant of the future, which will be popular with women, will pay the waiters an adequate salary and make it a rule of the establishment that no fees shall be accepted. A card stating this rule can be placed on the printed menu to notify guests of the fact. The waiters, whether men or women, will be respectful and attentive; the only reason why women prefer male to female waitresses is the fact that, when a woman is inclined to be insolent to a woman, she has a thousand and one ways of making herself disagreeable that would never occur to the masculine mind. The restaurant where the waitresses wear neat white caps and pretty white aprons is admired and patronized by women because its waitresses are, as a rule, sensible women who attend to business; the haughty or the flighty waitress is too elegant to work in a shop that requires them to wear a uniform. Besides, the neat and natty appearance of the attendants adds to the picture.

Women never like the restaurant that dispenses with the tablecloth; it may be an economy in laundry bills for the proprietor, but, in the long run it will be found not to pay. Every woman who sits down to the shining, uncovered board feels like taking a napkin and wiping it off; it may be perfectly clean, but she never feels sure.

Elaborate menus may be attractive, but when the same women patronize the same restaurant day after day, they like a change in the bill of fare. Most restaurants are content with the same bill of fare week after week.

As women understand the culinary art better than men, it is a wonder that more women do not go into the restaurant business.

A few years ago on a side street near Union square, New York, some young women, sisters, opened a small restaurant and made a great success of it.

quarters, cleared at the rate of \$50 to \$100 a day, more than the combined earnings of the sisters would have been in any other occupation into which they could have embarked without experience. They gave up the venture after having acquired enough capital to em-

GOLF TEAS THE LATEST FAD.



Golf, tennis or croquet teas are popular. Outdoor exercise such as these games afford is somewhat exhausting, and hostesses are now serving refreshments under the trees to those who gather either informally or on invitation to play on their grounds. The idea is a delightful one, and it is a pity some one did not think of it long ago. Tea made in the 5 o'clock tea apparatus and served with tea cakes or tiny sandwiches between games keeps the enthusiasm of the guests away for an afternoon, instead of gradually dwindling away after an hour or so. Tea, luncheon, and the men are never seen to better advantage than when displaying a little extra thoughtfulness over the tea of some favored fair friends. It takes a heroism a little short of martyrdom for a hot, tired and thirsty man to staidly distributing tea and sandwiches and seeing the last capital disappear with the knowledge that he will have to wait until a second pot is brewed. A man who can patiently and politely endure such an ordeal is a good person for the average young woman to cultivate if he is still unattached and fancy free.

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF THE NAILS.

THE care of the nails is a very important matter to all persons of good breeding. A nail which is indifferently groomed is an abomination in refined society. Even in the humbler walks of life there is no excuse for rough, harsh looking nails, for it is comparatively easy and inexpensive to keep them in perfect condition. It is especially unpardonable for a woman to neglect the care of the nails, for women are looked up to as models of refinement and good taste. To a large extent the care which a woman bestows upon her finger nails indicates her character.

Many men and women who are otherwise very fastidious in regard to their appearance are totally unmindful of their hands, contenting themselves with detailed attention to matters of far less consequence.

One would suppose that the busy nail that performs so many useful offices would receive the care to which it is entitled for the reasons before stated.

There are preparations for keeping the cuticle in good condition and the nail a bright pink. For cleaning the nails or pressing back the cuticle about them, never use a blunt metal instrument; an orange wood stick, blunt at one end and pointed at the other, is far better. In treating the cuticle, a good cream and a good cuticle softener will be found very useful. When the nails are discolored, a nail bleach may be used. A piece of pumice stone will be found useful in removing stains from the fingers.

If, through an accident, you are about to loose a nail, do not try to hurry its removal; it is always better such times to consult a physician. The cuticle should not under any circumstances be cut away with a knife or the scissors, and ladies who are in the habit of having their hands cared for by a professional manicurist should bear this in mind if they wish to avert painful consequences. Always insist that the orange manicure stick be used.

White spots on the nails indicate a derangement of the system. To keep the nails the right length, they should first be trimmed the desired shape with a pair of manicure scissors, and the edges made smooth with a very fine manicure file.

Nothing is needed for the care of the nails, except scissors, file, orange wood sticks, rose cream, a pink nail powder and an emery paper file. These can be purchased in any drug-gist's shop.

To put nice gloss upon the nail, take a little powder in the palm of the hand and rub the surface of the nail with it quickly. I prefer this to the burnisher, usually sold for that purpose.

May Scott Highland.

New York.

CONCERNING WOMEN.

The Duchess of Portland is believed to be the tallest woman in England. She married the duke in 1833. She was then Miss Dallas York. The duke is the lord of \$1,000,000 a year and owns half a dozen castles.

Three thousand marriages are performed every day all over the world. There are over 60,000 stuprators children in the schools of Germany. The increase has been so great during the past four years that the defect is con-

sidered contagious. The famous Dr. Gutzman is authority for the statement that the increase is due to mimicry; that the young mimics who imitate stutters soon become involuntary stutters themselves.

The story runs that a lady having a dress tried on by a Paris dressmaker had her purse stolen during the process. She at once had all the handmaids collected, demanded from each a lock of hair and then told the trembling

crowd that on the morrow their hair and handwritings would be submitted to a somnambulist and clairvoyant, who would disclose the identity of the thief. Her purse was returned that evening.

A woman without arms has been married at Christchurch, New Zealand. The ring was placed upon the fourth toe of the left foot. A similar marriage to this was performed at St. James' church, Bury St. Edmunds, in 1822.

A part of the curious list of Lady Littleton's wedding outfit 200 years ago is as follows: "A black padaway gown

and coat; a pink unwatred pabby suite of cloaths; a gold stuff suite of cloaths; a white, worked with seal, suite of cloaths."

An odd monument was desired by an elderly maiden lady who died a few weeks ago in Athlone, Ireland. She left a fortune of £27,000 to be spent in the erection of a church, provided that her body should be converted into ashes and used in making the mortar for building the edifice.

When Edmund Burke was member for Bristol in 1774, his friend and supporter, Richard Champion, owner of

the porcelain works there, presented Mrs. Burke, daughter of Dr. Nugent, with a fine tea service, with arms and inscription, "To the Best of British Wives." A cup and saucer of this service was sold in London the other day for £30.

The empress of Russia has inherited the talent of her mother, Princess Alice of Great Britain and Ireland, whose cleverness with her pencil was the envy of her younger brothers and sisters.

Queen Victoria has completed the sixty-second year of her reign—the longest in the history of England. George

III reigned 59 years 2 months and 4 days. This is the nearest approach to the length of the queen's reign.

Miss Celia Miles, the only daughter of Major General Nelson A. Miles, is a great favorite in Washington society. She is a blond, fair, remarkably graceful, and with the frank, unaffected ways of a girl generally, she is an accomplished musician and linguist and a splendid horsewoman.

A niece of Attorney General Griggs, Miss Elizabeth A. Curtis, is one of the latest translators of Omar Khayyam. At a recent reception given in her hon-

or by her uncle she overheard one prominent society woman inquire of another as to who Omar was. "Oh," replied the woman addressed, "he is a new colored poet like Paul Dunbar!"

Miss Mary E. Scranton of New Haven is erecting a public library in Madison, Conn., as a memorial to her father, Erasmus C. Scranton, for many years a banker in New Haven and at one time president of the New York and New Haven railroad. While present was her son over by train at Newmark, Conn., and killed instantly. Her daughter was on the train at the time.